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Creating Inviting Spaces

• A/V collections that shine

The Real People's Guide to the Internet
VHS with ring-bound, 104-page guide-
book (may be purchased separately)

\$29.95

ISBN 0-96694838-3-5

35 minutes

thoughtSource Inc.

Granted, there are a ton of Internet training materials on the market to choose from these days, but many of them try to do too much or bore the student. This video-guidebook combo is an excellent introduction for computer users who are complete strangers to the web: explanations are simple, fun and crystal clear. In a sort of TV-news format, a male and female host sit behind a desk where they introduce

basic concepts and provide transitions to demonstrations and other speakers. Viewers are told what the Net is, how to get connected, how to search for information and set up free e-mail

accounts. The narrators also explain what newsgroups and mailing lists are and how to participate. Amusing corny bits featuring an actor in front of his computer keep the tone light and reinforce the production's recurring message, "Don't panic." The accompanying guidebook is a great follow-up to maximize results—it could easily stand alone as a teaching tool. Each page features color reproductions of the computer screen, so readers can, for example, see exactly what the toolbar bar and option windows look like. Using MSN.com as the home page, the book gently takes new users through the process of signing on, then introduces recommended websites, such as Microsoft's Hotmail, which are also depicted in color. When "real people" walk away from this guide, they'll be hanging 10 on the Net, for sure. The video alone goes for \$15, and the book for \$20.

